

to buy liquor for their own use. In Awali liquor is sold through the medium of BAPCO, while residents in Manama must apply for a permit to buy liquor from H.B.M.'s Political Agent. 273

It is a serious offence in Bahrain for a Moslem to be found in possession of liquor, or "under the influence" and it is also illegal for non-Moslems in possession of liquor to give or sell it to Moslems.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are in Bahrain a number of private and public hospitals, as well as dentists, doctors and chemists. 743

For the benefit of the people of Bahrain the State Department of Health maintains a number of medical institutions in various parts of Bahrain. At the western end of Manama is the Naim Hospital for men and women, containing both public and private wards and equipped to deal with all emergencies. This hospital is used by the foreign community, except those employed by BAPCO, as well as by the people of the country. Also in Manama there are isolation hospitals, a mental hospital, a T.B. Sanatorium and the Office of Public Health. There are also State Hospitals in Muharraq and Hedd and dispensaries in the three towns and various villages. 657

For the use of its employees, both Bahraini and foreign, BAPCO has two hospitals in Awali.

The oldest hospital in Bahrain is that run by the mission of the Dutch Reformed Church of America in Shaikh Isa Road, Manama. [777] This hospital contains both public and private wards. There are also several dentists and doctors practising privately in Manama.

RATES OF POSTAGE

LETTERS		Rs.	As.
INLAND :	Not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	11
	For each additional oz.	0	1
FOREIGN :			
Seamail :			
	Kuwait, Dubai and Muscat, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	11
	For each additional oz.	0	1
	Great Britain and Eire, British Empire and territories under British Mandate, U.S.A. and Egypt, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	24
	For each additional oz.	0	1
	All other countries, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	4
	For each additional oz.	0	24
Airmail :			
	Europe, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
	Australia, New Zealand, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	12
	Canada, U.S.A., per half oz. or fraction thereof	1	0
	India, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
	Saudi Arabia, Irak, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan, per half oz. or part thereof	0	34

REVIEW OF 1372

300 The two most important events during the year were the conclusion of a new oil agreement between the Government and the Bahrain Petroleum Company and His Highness Shaikh Sulman's first visit to Europe to attend the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

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439 The new oil agreement was on a 50-50 basis on the same lines as other agreements which have recently been made between governments and oil companies in the Middle East, it also provided for a payment to the State on oil imported into Bahrain for refining. As a result of this agreement the total revenue for the year under review was 373½ lakhs of rupees, approximately £2,800,000, though the new scale of payments was not in operation throughout the whole of 1372.

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657 Expenditure was higher than in 1371. Excluding the one third of the oil revenue, which is paid to the Privy Purse, 48 per cent. of the State's expenditure was on social and public services; Education, Public Health, Public Protection and grants to Municipalities absorbed 18½ per cent., 15-3/8 per cent., 10-4/5 per cent., and 3 per cent. respectively, including capital expenditure on new schools, dispensaries and police quarters. The demand for more schools and hospitals is continuous and insistent but few Bahrain people realise the heavy recurrent cost of medical and education services which can be maintained on the present scale only as long as the present revenue continues.

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471 Trade flourished and the revenue from customs was higher than in the previous year; during recent years customs collections have risen annually. Local prosperity was apparent from what might be described as a building boom. Many new houses and shops were built in the towns and suburbs by private enterprise. The type of house varied from European style bungalows and blocks of flats, built by merchants and shaikhs for letting, to small stone houses which are gradually replacing barasti, palm branch huts. Several serious fires in barasti areas, which destroyed many dwellings, gave an impetus to building. Working men who owned pieces of ground built small houses and the Government received hundreds of applications from people who wished to buy building plots. Unfortunately the Government owns very little land in and around the towns, much of it having been given away or sold cheaply many years ago.

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161 The standard of living in Bahrain is very much higher than it was a few years ago and the health of the people is noticeably better than it used to be. For these reasons and owing to a steady influx of foreigners, mostly from Oman and the Trucial Coast, who come to Bahrain to work, it is believed that there has been a substantial increase in the population which at the time of the last census, in 1930, was found to be 110,000.

578 The state of public security was good in spite of the presence of large numbers of foreigners who are not as naturally law abiding as the people of Bahrain. There were no political or labour disturbances.

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439 Relations with Qatar deteriorated owing to incidents connected with the visit of a party of Bahrain schoolboys and school teachers to Zubara during the Spring holiday. The commercial development of Qatar tended to reduce Bahrain's transit trade and deprived some of the Bahrain merchants of agencies which used to include both Bahrain and Qatar. Relations with Saudi Arabia and Iraq were friendly, a deputation headed by Shaikh Isa bin Sulman, His Highness's eldest son, represented Bahrain at the coronation of King Faisal in Baghdad.

DIVING INDUSTRY

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There is little to report on this subject. Under present conditions it seems probable that in a few years the diving Nakhudas will find that it is impossible to obtain any recruits for diving in Bahrain. During the season only 12 boats went out to the banks from Bahrain and most of the divers who were engaged were from Persia and the Trucial Coast. So much money can be earned on shore that few men are willing to leave their shore jobs in order to dive during the summer months.

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The tax on imported pearls imposed by the Government of India was in force throughout and after the diving season and this contributed to a large extent to the slackness in the pearl trade. Taking into consideration the small number of boats employed in diving the catch was moderately good and pearl prices were not much lower than in the previous season.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

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(Report by Dr. R. H. B. Snow, M.B.E., Senior Medical Officer)

Summary of the Year

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A change is gradually infiltrating and making itself evident in the scope and policy of medical work which is increasing in every department and subconsciously affecting the life of the Island. Traditions are now being established which the new generation are growing up with, and health ideas which once were revolutionary are now accepted as the normal course of reasonable upbringing.

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The medical department which started in a small way, and expanded slowly is seeing results which are very satisfying but which are taken for granted, although they took years of striving to achieve. From its small beginnings and tiny nucleus of key staff it has now spread out from something rather personal to more of a departmental outlook. This in the course of things is bound to be, but its danger is that lack of co-ordination may develop or that the department may absorb the individual expression. At present there seems to be no signs of this because the various heads of departments meet together continually to exchange ideas and align themselves in a common policy, and also they are readily accessible to the public.

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Lines of expansion have shown themselves everywhere. The surgical work has been given great impetus by the advent of an F.R.C.S. specialist, Mr. R. D. Wilkins.

The operation theatre now runs a staff rota for every 24 hours of the day, made possible by recruiting Sister Ford and Sister Johnson from England. Sister Edwards was appointed to the Nursing Home to replace Sister Milson. The X-Ray department has an English Radiographer in charge—Mr. Harvey. The Laboratory has a staff of six technicians. Four new Indian doctors arrived, one lady doctor for the Women's Hospital, and the others, male, were appointed to the Boys' Schools, The Port, and the Hospital. Mr. Burgin replaced Mr. Harvey as Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Nambiar became the new Anti-Malaria Supervisor. Both hospitals recruited many more Indian trained nurses. The lack of sufficient staff has now been made good and at present meets all needs which recently have been very pressing. It meant also that more specialised apparatus could be installed being safely handled by expert hands. Such things include a more powerful X-Ray plant, a modern anaesthetic apparatus to administer all gases and curare, an electro-cautery unit and an electro-cardiograph.

HIDD MUNICIPALITY

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693 Finance. The total revenue was Rs. 28,739, slightly higher than in 1972. At the end of the year there was a surplus of Rs. 6,102. The amount expended was almost the same as in the previous year. At the end of the year His Highness granted Rs. 25,000 to the Municipal funds for building property to increase the Municipal revenue.

The town was clean and well kept and some progress was made in widening the one main street which passes through the length of the town.

RAFAA MUNICIPALITY

which includes East, West and North Rafaa

(From the report of Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid, President of the Municipal Council)

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363 This Municipality, the last one to be formed in Bahrain, having been established in 1971, carried out its duties successfully during the year. Its revenue was Rs. 37,000 of which Rs. 20,000 was a grant from the Government.

Houses were registered and numbered for the purpose of charging house tax and a piece of land below East Rafaa was laid out as a building area, in conjunction with the Land Department. The Municipality began work on widening the road which passes through East Rafaa and removed part of some houses in order to widen this road.

365 Repairs were carried out to Ain Hinainiyah, the old well on the plain below East Rafaa which provides fresh drinking water, which used to be sold in Manama at a high price, being of superior quality to the artesian well water.

364 Ancient rubbish heaps, which disfigured the edge of the town, were removed and the material was used to fill in deep pits, inside the town, where mud had been dug for building houses.

The Municipality began to establish a regular town cleaning service.

MINORS' ESTATES DEPARTMENT

(From the report of Mr. Mohammed Dowager, Superintendent of the Department)

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651 The Department took over the administration of 18 new estates and dealt with 28 compensation cases relating to persons in the employment of the Bahrain Government and the Bahrain Petroleum Company. The value of the estates was Rs. 131,000. Compensation paid by the Bahrain Petroleum Company in cases of death or disablement of employees is passed by the Government to the Minors' Estates Department which pays the persons who are entitled to receive compensation.

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427 Rents of property administered by the Department produced almost 2 lakhs, the number of properties, including shops, houses, gardens, etc., was 530. The Department sold nine lots of property during the year, for approximately half a lakh and made purchases amounting to Rs. 9,000. The sum of Rs. 100 was recovered from divers who were in debt to various estates.

[Minor's Estates Department]

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736 Disbursements for maintenance amounted to Rs. 108,800, almost exactly the same sum as was paid out in the previous year. At the beginning of the year the number of orphans and widows who were drawing allowances was 442, of these 36 attained majority and took over their property, cash payments to them totalled Rs. 182,500.

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652 The Department built four houses in Manama and Muharraq and carried out repairs to a number of other buildings, the expenditure under this heading was Rs. 78,000.

As usual the funds held by the Department together with funds placed at its disposal by the Government were given out on loan to the public, at interest, secured by title deeds of immovable property or gold. The rates of interest charged by the Department are low in comparison to those prevailing in the market.

During the year the Government placed with the Department a further 2½ lakhs, making its total deposit Rs. 10,80,000.

Interest on loans collected during the year was Rs. 1,46,000, there is a scale of interest depending upon the amount of the loan, the average rate of interest during the year was 6 per cent.

Loans repaid to the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 19,29,000, about 3 lakhs more than in 1371, new loans, made to the public, were approximately 24½ lakhs. At the end of the year 24½ lakhs were on loan to the public.

DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNT

Receipts			Expenditure		
Balance from 1371	Rs.	16,585 6 10	Maintenance allowances, etc.	Rs.	1,08,876 9 0
From estates and compensation cases	..	1,31,249 1 8	Purchase of properties	..	9,330 0 0
Rents	..	1,96,394 13 4	Upkeep of buildings and additions	..	78,325 15 11
Refund of Loans	..	19,29,600 0 0	Payments to the beneficiaries	..	1,82,511 10 0
Interest on Loans	..	1,46,040 0 0	Loans advanced	..	24,40,250 0 0
Deposits	..	2,09,051 12 5	Balance in the Eastern Bank	..	1,25,205 9 1
Loan from Government	..	2,50,000 0 0			
By sale of properties	..	50,451 4 3			
Debts recovered	..	15,127 5 6			
Total	Rs.	29,44,499 12 0	Total	Rs.	29,44,499 12 0

LAND REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

(From the report of Mr. Abdul-Aziz Al Saleh, acting Superintendent of the Department)

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425 Land Registration. There were 1,072 transactions during the year which included 628 sales, 262 registration of titles and 182 gifts; the properties which were dealt with consisted of 273 plots of ground, most of them being building sites, 82 gardens, 47 shops and 26 miscellaneous lots. Fees amounting to Rs. 1,27,975 were collected of which Rs. 1,20,781 was derived from sales and Rs. 7,194 from registration of titles, etc.

At the end of the year the amount in the Police Provident Fund was Rs. 2,11,507. The balance of the Police Fund was Rs. 11,563/-, the sum of Rs. 5,744/- was paid out in loans to Police and Natus, most of the payments being for building or repairing houses. 625 657

Crimes and Accidents. There was a slight increase in the number of serious crimes which is thought to be partly due to the large influx of foreigners, especially Omanis, during recent years. 674 186

On 25th January, 1953, some Omanis who were living in the brothel area, missed one of their party, Abdulla bin Salim. They went to his house which was found to be locked. One of them climbed over the wall and on entering the house he found Abdulla with his throat cut. The victim was a bad character, a procurer in the brothel area. Police investigations produced no evidence to justify a prosecution.

On 13th December, 1952, a youth named Abdul Husain bin Isa, who worked as a car cleaner and who habitually slept in a garage in Manama, was found by the owner of the garage, when he came to take out his car, lying dead on his bed with a wound in his back and signs of having been throttled. The garage doors were locked, one key was in the possession of the youth and the owner of the garage had another key. The garage, however, could have been entered by an inner door. There appeared to be no motive for the murder as the victim was not of the type to be associated with an affair of sex. The Police arrested the owner of the garage and his brother and laid a charge of murder against them in the Bahrain Court. The family of the murdered man were insistent that he had been murdered by the owners of the garage. The case was heard and the accused were acquitted owing to lack of evidence. 674 695 681

On 17th May, 1953, one Abdul Husain bin Haji Sulman bin Khalaf, a local Bahraini, was walking in a lane near his house, at night. His brother, Ibrahim, came on him from behind and stabbed him twice with a knife. He was seriously injured but after hospital treatment he recovered. The reason for the attack was a family quarrel. The attacker was sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour.

On 7th November, 1952, two men were cleaning their hands with petrol at one of the garages in Manama. Another man lit a match which ignited the petrol causing serious burns to both of the men one of whom subsequently died in hospital.

An Omani came from Dubai and reported to the Police that two years before his son, aged 18, who was working in a garage in Bahrain, died from burns. It was established that the boy had died in hospital as a result of burns but no evidence was forthcoming about the cause of the burns.

A man who was arrested for pickpocketing attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor blade, in the Police Station.

There were two deaths from electrocution. A boy of 12 years caught hold of an electric wire in a shop and was killed, and a man climbed an electric standard, in order to catch birds, touched a live wire and was killed immediately. 165

Five cases of accidental drowning occurred, two men were lost when their small fishing craft capsized, an old man, reputed to be nearly 100 years old, fell into the sea from a fishing boat during stormy weather off Barbar and two children were drowned on the shore west of Manama town. In none of these cases was there any suggestion of foul play.

On 23rd August, 1953, some boys were out shooting on the shore near Jasrah. A shot from the gun of Mohamed Ahmed Al Ghatam entered the neck of one Ibrahim bin Mohamed Al Khalifah and killed him. The owner of the gun immediately left Bahrain. His father was ordered to pay Rs. 5000 to the relatives of the victim and to remove himself from Jasrah and an order was passed against the son forbidding him to return to Bahrain for an indefinite period. The families were related and were branches of the Ruling Family.

There were 280 cases of theft reported to the Police against 303 cases in 1371. Of these cases 55 were presented in Court, 133 cases were undetected and 92 cases were not proceeded with for lack of evidence. Most of the cases were pickpocketing and thefts of clothes.

Responsibility for the protection of the health of the people resides in the Public Health Department of the Bahrain government. It has curative and preventive divisions, and is administered by a Chief Medical Officer with headquarters in Manama. Four general hospitals—government, mission and industrial—with an aggregate capacity of 324 beds were functioning in 1951. In addition, the government services operated 5 special hospitals with 86 beds, maternity clinics and scattered dispensaries for men and women. Water supplies are obtained from large numbers of artesian wells, as well as from springs and shallow wells. The town of Manama has a piped artesian supply which serves over 70 per cent of the houses. Sewage is disposed of by primitive methods, and most well and spring water sources are polluted.

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